

Public Health *Reports*

Medical Necessity and the Debate over
[Expletive Deleted] Care
John E. Wennberg

340 The Effect of Incarceration during Pregnancy
on Birth Outcomes
Sandra L. Martin, Randall H. Rieger, et al.

SCIENTIFIC CONTRIBUTIONS

Radioactive Sewage

308 Radioactivity in Municipal Sewage and Sludge
James E. Martin, Frederick D. Fenner

317 COMMENTARY

Discharge of Radioactive Material into Public
Sewers: The Regulatory Dilemma
Cecil Lue'Hing

Tooth Decay

319 Dental Caries Prevalence and Treatment Levels
in Arizona Preschool Children
Julie M.W. Tang, Donald S. Altman, et al.

330 COMMENTARY

New Approach Needed to Reduce Caries in
Children
Burton L. Edelstein

332 The Relationship between Prenatal Health
Behavior Advice and Low Birth Weight
Marjorie R. Sable, Allen A. Herman

DEPARTMENTS

265 EDITORIALS

266 LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

267 PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS & NOTES

347 PHS CHRONICLES

How the Ohio River sculpted the field of environmental
health.

Lynne P. Snyder

351 REVIEWS

Richard Rhodes's *Deadly Feasts: Tracking the Secrets of a
Terrifying New Plague*
Anthony Robbins

An interim report to Congress: *Indicators of Welfare
Dependence and Well-Being*
Trude Bennett

355 NCHS DATALINE

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS:

Edward Baker
David Benor
Roger H. Bemier
Miriam Campbell
Stephen Corbin
Anthony J. D'Angelo
Richard Dicker
Susan Ellenberg
Mary Anne Freedman

Donald Goldstone
Richard Goodman
Mary Guinan
William Halperin
James Hanson
Andrea M. Hricko
Kathy Hudson
Robert Irwin
Richard Jackson

Samuel Korper
Stephen A. Morse
Ray Nicola
John Parascandola
Regina Rabinovich
Carol Rest-Mincberg
Gregory Wagner
Lynne S. Wilcox
Mark Yessian

Cover: In USPHS water programs based in Cincinnati since the
1840s, we find the roots of today's EPA (see article page 347).

Opinions expressed in *PHR* are authors' and do not reflect the
views of the Public Health Service or the institutions or
agencies with which the authors are affiliated.

Public Health Reports

Anthony Robbins, MD, Editor
E-mail: robbins@nlm.nih.gov

Public Health Reports
Room 1855
John F. Kennedy Federal Building
Boston MA 02203
Tel. 617-565-1440; fax 617-565-4260
E-mail: phr@nlm.nih.gov

Robin Chase, Editorial Consultant
Ned Curran, Associate Editor
Judy Kaplan, Scientific Editor
Janice Lesniak, Operations Manager

Public Health Reports one-year subscription price is \$15 domestic and \$18.75 for foreign subscribers.

A subscription form and other information appear on the back cover.

PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS
USPS 324-990
ISBN 0033-3549

Public Health Reports is published bi-monthly by the U.S. Public Health Service. All material is in the public domain and available for use with proper attribution to *Public Health Reports*. Opinions expressed are the authors' and do not reflect the views of *Public Health Reports* or the Public Health Service. Trade names are used for identification only and do not represent an endorsement by the Service.

Second class postage paid at Washington DC and additional mailing offices. Paying subscribers send address changes to: Superintendent of Documents, P.O. Box 371954, Pittsburgh PA 15250-7954. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Public Health Reports*, Room 1855, John F. Kennedy Federal Building, Boston MA 02203.



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
AND HUMAN SERVICES
Donna E. Shalala, PhD
Secretary



PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE
John M. Eisenberg, MD
Acting Assistant Secretary for Health
Head, Public Health Service

EDITORIALS



Damon Thompson, OPHS

Allan Rosenfield (far left) and A.B. Lindberg (seated) sign the co-sponsorship agreement while, from left to right, Robyn Gopin, Anthony Robbins, and Jo Ivey Boufford look on.

SCHOOLS OF PUBLIC HEALTH NOW CO-SPONSOR *PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS*

On May 1, Dr. Allan Rosenfield, Dean of the School of Public Health at Columbia University and President of the Association of Schools of Public Health, joined Drs. Jo Ivey Boufford and Donald A.B. Lindberg, for the U.S. Public Health Service, in signing an agreement to co-sponsor *Public Health Reports*. The signing and reception were small and modest, but the plans and dreams for the journal are very ambitious. Now, with the participation of the schools' 3000 faculty, 14,000 students, and 75,000 alumnae/i, the redesigned and reinvented *Public Health Reports* is ready for a new era. We welcome the new sponsors, who share our mission to advance the health of the public and the field of public health.

BEWARE OF BOILERPLATE

We recently received a manuscript that describes the use of lipid screening in a managed care population. The covering letter from the first author was on stationery from the Center for Health Care Research, an arm of that managed care plan. Although the letter touched all the bases for a good letter of submission, following the *Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals*, something was seriously wrong. The corresponding author, who works for the research center, had included the following sentence: "We certify that none of the authors had any affiliations with or involvement in any organization or entity with a direct financial interest in the subject matter or materials discussed in the manuscript." That just wasn't true.

We replied with gentle humor, asking that the authors consider whether the boilerplate they plugged in really described their situation.

Everyone who submits a manuscript to *Public Health Reports* should remember that the purpose of disclosure in the letter is to permit us to inform our readers about potential bias, not to eliminate all bias. Thus we make a plea to our authors to read and think carefully about their letters of submission.

- detected in sanitary waste samples. *Radiat Protection Management* 1989;6:48-52.
9. McDonnell CE, Wilkins S. Radiation exposure of sewer workers associated with radioactive discharges from hospitals. Chilton (UK): National Radiation Protection Board; 1991. NRPB-M295.
 10. Stetar EA, Boston HL, Larsen IL, Mobley MH. The removal of radioactive cobalt, cesium, and iodine in a conventional municipal wastewater treatment plant. *Water Environ Res* 1993;65:630-9.
 11. Marino G. The nuclides in town: does danger lurk in low-level radioactivity in sewerage? *Sci News* 1994;146:218-9.
 12. International Commission on Radiological Protection. Limits for intakes of radionuclides by workers. pt. 1. Oxford: Pergamon Press; 1977. ICRP Pub. 30.
 13. Environmental Protection Agency (US). EPA Federal Guidance Report No. 11. Washington: EPA; 1988. Report No. EPA-520/1-88-020.
 14. Testoni G, Bernardi T, Tubertini O. Radioactive contamination in the Bologna sewage system due to nuclear medicine examinations. In: *Proceedings of the Seventh International Congress of the International Radiation Protection Association*. vol. III. 1988 Apr; Sydney, Australia. New York: Pergamon Press; 1988:1353-7.
 15. Erlandsson B, Bjurman B, Mattsson S. Calculation of radionuclide ground deposition by means of measurements of sewage sludge. *Water, Air and Soil Pollution* 1989;45:329.
 16. NUS Corporation. Risk assessment and safety system analysis—University of Michigan Waste Handling Facility. Final report. Rockville (MD): NUS; 1991. NUS Report No. 5328.
 17. National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements. Exposure of the population of the United States and Canada from natural background radiation. Report No. 94. Washington: NCRP Publications; 1987.
 18. Turner EB. Environmental Protection Agency (US). Workbook on atmospheric diffusion calculations. Washington: EPA; 1970.

In Upcoming Issues

CHILD LABOR TODAY

Philip Landrigan

This age-old threat to child health
is reappearing in certain industries and U.S. communities.

FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION

Wanda K. Jones

CDC reveals how it assesses the scope of FGM in the United States:
Which populations are at risk?
What is the prevalence? Where are they located?

PUBLIC HEALTH SURVEILLANCE SURVEYS

Bruce B. Cohen, Daniel J. Friedman

Beware: the value of a survey
in shaping public policy depends upon who conducted it.

GETTING A RAW MILK MUSTACHE

Marcia L. Headrick, et al.

The authors survey 4000 raw milk drinkers
in order to find out
who engages in this potentially dangerous behavior.

BRIDGING LANGUAGE BARRIERS

John Hornberger, et al.

California researchers assess problems
physicians face in using translators to communicate with patients.



OUTFALL DRAINAGE DITCH AT UNION CARBIDE PLANT

What's in these ditches? A company just put in an application to the Texas Water Commission (TWC) to discharge 2.2 million gallons of wastewater a day into an unnamed roadside ditch that leads to Galveston Bay.

RITA CARLSON

The TWC and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency have to find a balance of environmental and economic factors in the regulatory process.

JOHN WARD, WATER QUALITY MANAGER
TEXAS WATER COMMISSION, DISTRICT 7

The TWC is charged to prevent pollution. That's what the Clean Water Act says to do. They do not prevent pollution; they permit pollution, taking on the notion that it must be balanced with economic development, and I agree with them... but, let's add in the true cost, which is a reduced productive environment. It's a tremendous cost, a huge subsidy.

BRIAN CAIN
RESOURCE CONTAMINANT SPECIALIST

Department of Health and Human Services
Room 1855
John F. Kennedy Federal Building
Boston, MA 02203

Second-Class Mail
Postage and Fees Paid
PHS-OASH
ISSN 0033-3539

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, \$300

PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS • PHS 96-50193 • (USPHS 324-990)

Superintendent of Documents **Subscriptions** Order Form

☐ **YES**, please send me _____ subscriptions to **PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS (HSMHA)** for \$15.00 each per year (\$18.75 foreign).

The total cost of my order is \$ _____. Price includes regular domestic postage and handling and is subject to change.

Customer's Name and Address

Zip

For privacy protection, check the box below:

☐ Do not make my name available to other mailers

Please choose method of payment:

☐ Check payable to the Superintendent of Documents☐ VISA or MasterCard[illegible]

--	--	--	--

(Credit card expiration date)

(Authorizing signature)

11/94

Mail To: Superintendent of Documents, P.O. Box 371954, Pittsburgh PA 15250-7954